

REMARKS

The abstract and specification have been objected to, and have been appropriately amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-35 are pending. Claims 1-35 have been rejected. Claims 8, 9, 11, 22, 24, 26, 30, 31, 33, and 35 have been objected to. Claims 1-3, 7-9, 11, 13-16, 20-22, 24, 26, 27, 30, 31, 33, and 35 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 8, 11, 22, 24, 26, 30, 31, 33, and 35 have been objected to because of the use of parentheses and quotation marks. Claims 9, 22, and 31 have been objected to because of the term "idunit." The claims have been appropriately amended. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-26 have been rejected under U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claims have been appropriately amended. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 14 have been rejected under U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1 and 28 of co-pending Application No. 10/646,632. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12, 14-25, and 27-34 have been rejected under U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by D'Andrea & Janus ("UniSQL's Next-Generation Object-Relational Database Management System"). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-12, 14-25, and 27-34 are allowable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

The claims are directed to a hardware/software interface system that manipulates discrete units of information having properties. Independent claims 1, 14, and 27 have been amended to include the features of the hardware/software interface system comprising a base schema that defines Item, Property Base, and Extension types. The Item type is defined by properties of a foundational Item type, the Property Base type is an anchor from which other property types are derived and through which derived property types are interrelated, and the Extension type defines which Item an extension extends and identification to distinguish one

extension from another. (see application, as originally filed, at paragraph [0114], for example).

D'Andrea describes four object extensions to SQL along with a directed acyclic graph data model (page 71, last paragraph). The objects in D'Andrea are defined in terms of other objects, and attributes are provided to describe the objects (page 72, second paragraph). D'Andrea generally describes a balanced client-server architecture (pages 73-74) and mentions that a database management system includes a variety of functions such as schema definition (page 72, line 6). However, there is no teaching or suggestion of a base schema that defines Item, Property Base, and Extension types, as claimed.

Claims 2-12 are dependent from claim 1, claims 15-25 are dependent from claim 14, and claims 28-34 are dependent from claim 27, and are therefore patentable for the reasons set forth above. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-12, 14-25, and 27-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

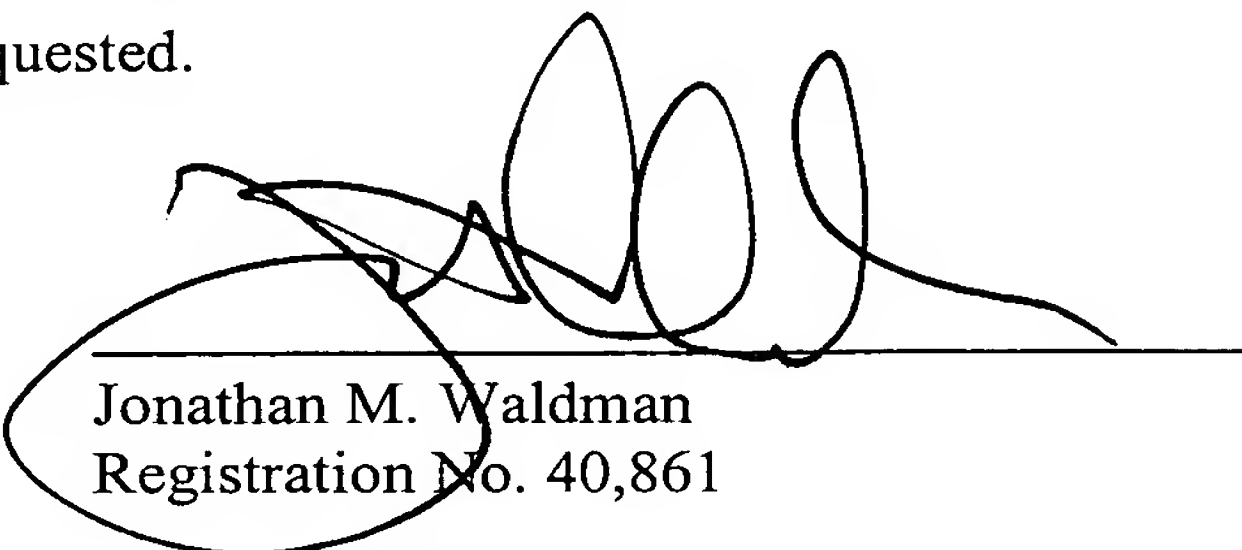
Claims 13, 26, and 35 have been rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over D'Andrea in view of Ip ("Complex Objects In Knowledge-Based Requirement Engineering"). Claim 13 is dependent from claim 1, claim 26 is dependent from claim 14, and claim 35 is dependent from claim 27, and are therefore patentable for the reasons set forth above. Ip fails to cure the deficiencies of D'Andrea. Ip describes an object relationship model and the use of complex objects as a knowledge representation platform for requirement engineering, but does not disclose or suggest a base schema that defines Item, Property Base, and Extension types, as claimed. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 13, 26, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

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In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

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